

Summary Scope for Development of BDCP Conservation Strategy

1. Identify Stressors

Stressors are natural and unnatural events or activities that adversely affect ecosystem processes, habitats, and species (CALFED 2000). In this step we will identify stressors important to the survival and recovery of covered species and the ecosystems on which they depend. Stressors will be important in determining conservation measures that make up different conservation strategy alternatives (CSAs) and to the identification of criteria for short-listing alternatives.

2. Develop Conservation Themes and Conservation Objectives

Conservation themes are broad biological or ecosystem conservation outcomes that are important to the conservation of covered species. Each conservation theme addresses a range of related stressors. Conservation themes will be used to develop conservation objectives that identify broad actions relevant to the conservation of species.

3. Revise Conservation Strategy Alternatives to incorporate Conservation Themes

Based on the stressors and conservation themes identified we will revise and expand the CSAs to better address the conservation of species.

4. Develop Short-Listing Criteria

Using the planning and conservation goals of the Planning Agreement and the conservation goals, we will develop "short-listing criteria" to be used to compare and contrast the CSAs on the CSA Long List.

5. Conduct Short-Listing of the CSA Long List to a CSA Short List

We will apply the short-listing criteria to the CSA Long List and eliminate CSAs from further consideration to establish the CSA Short List. Some Short List CSAs may be combinations or variants of the original CSAs on the CSA Long List.

6. Further Develop CSAs on the CSA Short List to Carry Forward

The CSAs on the CSA Short List will be further developed to add detail to the conservation elements/measures.

7. Dovetail Covered Activities with CSAs

Depending on the range of conservation themes spanned by the Short List CSAs, the Covered Activities may be similar or somewhat different as associated with the Short List CSAs. Descriptions of the Covered Activities will be dovetailed with each of the Short List CSAs such that the overall combined operations and activities associated with implementation of each alternative (CSA and Covered Activities) can be understood.

8. Conduct Analysis and Evaluation of Alternatives

The alternatives (Short List CSAs and Covered Activities combined) will be assessed for relative benefits, impacts, costs, etc. The alternatives will be compared and contrasted for relative outcomes and expected achievement of planning and conservation goals. Evaluation criteria will be developed and applied to assess the alternatives.

9. Select Single Alternative

Based on the evaluation of the alternatives a single alternative will be selected to carry forward in the Framework Document

10. Develop Draft Conservation Strategy Framework Document

A Draft Conservation Strategy Framework Document will be prepared that provides a comprehensive description of the key elements of the proposed conservation strategy.

11. Develop Final Conservation Strategy Framework Document

Following review, the draft Framework Document will be revised to a Final Conservation Strategy Framework Document.

12. Prepare draft Conservation Strategy

The full conservation strategy would be developed based on the Conservation Strategy Framework Document. More specificity would be added and specific conservation measures described in greater detail. The Conservation Strategy would be a major chapter in the full BDCP document. Specific biological goals and objectives and associated conservation measures would be described in detail. The adaptive management plan and monitoring program would be described in detail.